



NEWS RELEASE

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Workforce Development grants awarded to Evansville's Rexam Closures and Containers

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today announced that Evansville's Rexam Closures and Containers has been awarded two state grants to broaden and enhance the skills of its workforce.

The plastic container and closure company has received a total of \$109,276 through the **Indiana@Work** and **Incumbent Worker Training** grant programs administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to upgrade the skills of new and existing workers.

"Rexam is a great asset to our economy in Indiana, and we are pleased to provide these training and assessment programs to support the company and its workforce," said Kernan. "Technology is constantly changing, and our Indiana businesses and workers must constantly improve their skills in order to remain competitive in the global economy."

By enrolling in the state's new workforce development program, Indiana@Work, Rexam will utilize the \$14,320 to assess the skills of up to 200 people as the company seeks to hire 20 additional staff members. It will also profile its manufacturing coordinator, material handler, maintenance, mold repair technician and material technician positions.

Additionally, Rexam has been awarded a \$94,956 **Incumbent Worker Training** grant that will allow 30 employees the opportunity to obtain certificates of technical achievement (CTA) in advanced manufacturing through a program created in cooperation with the University of Southern Indiana. The program is designed to provide education and training for value-added customer service and satisfaction. Through the training, manufacturing teams will be developed allowing proficient response to the consumer packaging market.

"Rexam greatly appreciates the support we receive from the State of Indiana and the Department of Workforce Development in helping to expand our business through the personal development of our associates," said Todd E. Mathes, vice president and business unit manager for Rexam Closures and Containers. "These grants will help Rexam maximize its strength in the community by offering our associates the opportunity to further participate in enhancing their skill sets."

Headquartered in Evansville, the company was founded as Sunbeam Plastics in 1953 and was a pioneer in the development of child-resistant closures in the early 1970's. Today the company employs 400 people and is a leading manufacturer of proprietary and custom plastic closures and containers. Rexam is an international company with operations in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Rexam provides packaging solutions for the industrial and household chemical, automotive, nutritional, pharmaceutical, beverage and food markets.

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Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to more than 26,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested nearly 600 job profiles since its inception in January.

The centerpiece of Indiana@Work is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys® helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

The Incumbent Worker Training grant was designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers. All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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